

THE HISTORY OF SPANISH FORK

Some of the chiefs may have kept the treaty they made with the whites in 1865, but Sanpitch, who was reluctant about signing, went on the warpath early the following spring, but was captured at Nephi with seven others and incarcerated in the Nephi jail. They escaped one night, however, and after a flight of three or four days, Sanpitch was killed in the mountains west of Moroni by a posse who were seeking to rearrest him.

The Black Hawk War.—Black Hawk, another chief of the Utes, waged war so successfully against the settlers for the three years 1865, 1866, and 1867, that the Indian troubles of that time are called the Black Hawk War. During this period the pioneers passed through their most trying times, so far as troubles with the Indians were concerned.

Most of the depredations of the Black Hawk War were committed in San Pete and Sevier counties and men were sent from Spanish Fork and the other settlements to aid the inhabitants of that section.

Locally, however, the people were not free from trouble with the redskins. The murder of the Given family in Thistle valley is an example

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in point. On the 16th of May, 1866, a party of Indians came down from the mountains east of Spanish Fork and killed Christian Larsen, who was herding cattle on the east bench. They drove off nearly two hundred head of horses from the vicinity.

Diamond Fork Battle.—On the night of June 25th, 1866, a band of Indians raided Spanish Fork and stole some horses and cattle from William Berry's pasture, also taking some from a pasture at Springville. The alarm was given in the morning by a patrol who had been standing guard that night, but because of the extent of the territory which they were forced to cover, had not seen the Indians.

A posse of sixteen men, including William Creer, Albert Dimmick, Warren E. Davis, John Koyle, George Ainge, Alma C. Davis, William Jex, Llewelyn Jones, William J. Thomas, Morgan Hughes, Joshua Brockbank, Leven Simmons, Ephraim Caffell, John Robertson, Adamson Shepherd and James Wiley Thomas, was organized, and under the command of William Creer, set out after the redskins to recover the stolen stock if possible.

*Diamond Fork Battle
25 June 1866*

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The trail of the Indians led toward Springville, and thence up Maple Canyon to the east. The posse, following cautiously, came upon the smouldering remains of a camp fire and knew they were close upon the enemy. Following the trail carefully, lest they fall into an ambush, they passed over the mountain into Diamond Fork. About half way down this canyon they came upon the Indians, who apparently were not worrying about their pursuers, as they had unsaddled their horses, turned them out to graze, and were in the act of slaughtering one of the stolen cattle when the posse came in sight.

They immediately seized their weapons and took to the brush. As the whites were poorly equipped, two of them being without guns, and were outnumbered two to one by the savages, the posse found themselves in a dangerous position. They tackled their job with stout hearts, however, bent upon recovering the stolen property, and started down the canyon with a view to cutting off the escape of the Indians in that direction. As they drew opposite the position of the Indians, they were fired upon, one of the bullets striking the shoulder of the horse ridden

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by George Ainge. A short time later, Albert Dimmick, who had walked to the top of a hill to reconnoiter, was struck in the abdomen by a bullet from the gun of an Indian who had crawled near, and was mortally wounded. After an exchange of shots lasting an hour or more, a party of men from Springville arrived on the scene and engaged the Indians. No sooner had they arrived, however, than one of their number, John Edmundson, was shot from his horse and killed. His body was not recovered until late the following day, and was found scalped and with one hand cut off at the wrist. The arrival of the Springville men turned the tide of battle in favor of the whites, and the Indians were soon seen departing from the field, crossing the divide into Soldier Fork to the south.

Everything possible was done to relieve the sufferings of Dimmick. A litter was made and he was carried all the way back to Spanish Fork by his comrades, where after suffering for three days, he died.

Thirty-eight head of cattle and thirteen head of horses and mules were recovered, as well as a considerable amount of camp equipment own-

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ed by the Indians, which they had left behind in their retreat.

The Indians were commanded by Chief Mountain. It was afterward ascertained from the Indians that four of their party were killed, and about the same number wounded in the fight.

Black Hawk, the Indian chief who caused the settlers of Central Utah so much trouble during the years 1865-67, died at Spring Lake, a small town just south of Payson, in 1870. His bones were later uncovered by the action of the elements and were taken to the Deseret Museum in Salt Lake, after being displayed in the Spanish Fork Co-op. store window for a time.

Following is a list of men who took part in the Indian Wars during the early history of Spanish Fork. The list has been compiled from all available sources, but may not be complete:

George Ainge, Charles H. Browne, Isaac Bowers, William H. Babcock, Albern Babcock, Joshua Brockbank, David D. Boyack, John Banks, Robert M. Boyack, A. R. M. Beck, Joseph Boyack, Benjamin Buchanan, William Banks, John W. Berry, Willard Orson Creer, William Creer, Ephraim Caffell, William Chis-

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holm, Joseph Chambers, Matthew Caldwell, Warren E. Davis, Albert Dimmick, Alma C. Davis, Ephraim Dimmick, Andrew A. Dahle, Evan Evanson, Martin Farr, Franklin Farr, John F. Gay, Moses Brigham Gay, William H. Gay, George Gull, George G. Hales, Jesse Payton Holt, John H. Houghton, Morgan Hughes, S. Moroni Hicks, Charles H. Hales, George A. Hicks, Silas Hillman, Benjamin Isaac, Llewelyn Jones, William Jex, John Jones, John Koyle, William Lewis, Eli B. K. Ferguson, D. Alma Losee, Charles W. Leah, Thomas Lloyd, John G. Morgan, James Miller, Robert McKell, William McKee, Stephen Markham, Hugh Moore, Thomas C. Martell, Charles Monk, Henry McGonigle, Bartel Nielsen, William F. Pace, John Robertson, John Rockhill, James Robertson, August Swenson, William A. Stoker, Andrew Shepherd, Leven Simmons, Hyrum Sterling, Matthew Simmons, Ed. P. Thomas, William J. Thomas, James W. Thomas.